

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-9. (canceled).

Claim 10. (currently amended) A method for processing data structured in frames, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a particular code mode from a plurality of predefined code modes;

~~source-coding data bits, contained in a frame, in accordance with the particular code mode;~~

~~identifying~~determining the selected particular code mode via at least one mode bit contained in ~~the a~~ frame; and

performing channel-coding in the frame, independently of the selected particular source-code mode, on a first portion of the data bits and the at least one mode bit contained within the frame in the same way for all the source-bit rates, voice-coding rates and code modes being used and independently of the particular code mode; and

performing source-coding in the frame, according to the selected particular source-code mode, on a second portion of data bits contained in the frame.

~~wherein the channel-coded data bits and the source-coded data bits are contained within the same data frame to be transmitted.~~

Claim 11. (previously presented) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 10, wherein the step of selecting the particular code mode includes matching the particular code mode to at least one of a quality of a transmission channel and a network load.

Claim 12. (previously presented) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 10, wherein the at least one mode bit contains at least one of signaling information and information for describing reception quality.

Claim 13. (previously presented) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 10, the method further comprising the steps of:

using convolution codes for the step of channel coding; and

selecting the first portion of the data bits as a function of a length of the convolution code.

Claim 14. (previously presented) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 10, the method further comprising the step of:

using the first portion of the channel-coded data bits for channel decoding of the at least one mode bit.

Claim 15. (previously presented) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 14, wherein the first portion of the data bits is channel-coded consistently for different code modes in the process of decoding.

Claim 16. (previously presented) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one mode bit is channel-decoded only once.

Claims 17-18. (canceled).

Claim 19. (new): A system for processing data structured in frames, comprising:

a coding apparatus that selects a particular code mode from a plurality of predefined code modes, and determines the selected particular code mode via at least one mode bit contained in a frame;

a processing apparatus that performs channel-coding in the frame, independently of the selected particular source-code mode, on a first portion of the data bits and the at least one mode bit contained within the frame, and performs source-coding in the frame, according to the selected particular source-code mode, on a second portion of data bits contained in the frame.

Claim 20. (new) The system for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 19, wherein, via the processor unit, the first portion of the channel-coded data bits is also used for channel decoding the at least one mode bit.